

Get Ready for Spring at the S.F. Flower and Garden Show

Take BART to Balboa Park and Ride the Free Shuttle!

Avoid traffic and parking as you stop to smell the roses at the 20th annual San Francisco Flower and Garden show March 16-20 at the Cow Palace...ride BART to the show!

Exit BART at Balboa Park and take the free Garden Show Shuttle directly to the show. Garden Show Shuttles depart approximately every 15 minutes, starting half an

hour before the show opens and continuing 30 minutes after closing. To plan your trip use bart.gov's online Trip Planner.

One part botany and one part art gallery, the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show is where California's top landscape designers and nurseries showcase their creative talents. Twenty-three full-size gardens provide the centerpiece of this stunning annual event. This year's vignette gardens will focus on ecological concepts such as water-wise gardening, permaculture, sustainability and gardening with native plants. The Marketplace features tantalizing offerings from more than 360 exhibitors – the latest in garden tools, books, accessories, garden art and more.



Wednesday, March 16, through Saturday, March 19 the show is open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. On Sun., March 20, the show is open from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.gardenshow.com online, or call 800/829-9751.

Winner Selected in BART Essay Contest



A Grand Prize winner has been selected in the "BART #1 Transit System in America" Essay Contest. Hayzell Bautista of El Cerrito penned the winning entry and will receive the Grand Prize of \$500 worth of BART tickets.

Hayzell's essay was selected for its evocation of the sense of community felt aboard BART, the importance of BART in linking Bay Area destinations as well as her appreciation of the BART train operator during her first BART trip. Here is her essay.

"I had never ridden a train before, and I was concerned I'd get lost if I didn't pay attention to stops. Beside me, a small boy sat with his mother, excitedly narrating everything in sight: 'Look! Christmas lights! A tractor!' I looked out

at the things he gleefully pointed out. Smiling, I realized the beauty of my trip: with my eyes off the map, the views of the hills, cityscapes and the Bay were amazing. It felt as if I captured a glimpse of the adventure and opportunity that lay outside the car's automatic doors. I glanced back at the boy, now calling out approaching BART stops. I felt silly to worry about getting lost instead of appreciating the moment of peace amidst Christmas madness. As to make this magical moment perfect, the conductor said overhead, 'Kids! Be good this holiday. I asked Santa for a train, and look what I've got!' The entire car chuckled and the boy stared up at his mother with wide eyes. The gift from my first ride was the rediscovery of childlike amazement and appreciation of the beautiful sights, people and places I could visit with BART."

Question of the Month



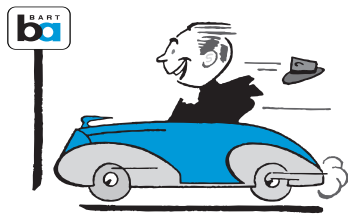
I'd love to take BART with my family to Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. How do we get there? Which BART station is closest? Do we need to take a shuttle?

To get to Fisherman's Wharf take any BART train bound for downtown San Francisco and exit at Embarcadero Station. Before leaving the BART faregates, grab a Muni/BART round trip discount coupon from the machines inside the BART area. The coupon will give you a 25-cent discount off the regular adult Muni fare each way.

Exit the BART station and go up to street level and board one of the historic Muni F-line street cars. These travel the length of Market Street and along the Embarcadero. Stops include Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf.

Enjoy your trip!

Additional Reserved Parking Now Available at Dublin/Pleasanton



BART has opened 143 new reserved parking spaces at the Dublin/Pleasanton station. 83 spaces are on the Dublin side and 60 spaces are on the Pleasanton side.

Reserved parking permits offer BART riders the convenience of having a guaranteed parking space until 10 a.m. each weekday. Permits cost \$42 per month and are available on a first come, first served basis.

The easiest way to purchase a permit is online at www.bart.gov/parking, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also call 877/700-7275 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to purchase a permit over the phone.

Drivers who park in the reserved spaces without a permit may be ticketed by BART Police. Remember, BART parking lots are for BART riders only.

“Ride Now!” Carpool Program Underway

Do you use BART’s Dublin/Pleasanton station and sometimes need a last-minute ride to get there? Can you pick up another BART passenger on the way to or from the BART station? If you do, you can take advantage of a new, free service called Ride Now! to connect you instantly with other BART riders for carpools to and from Dublin/Pleasanton BART.

Ride Now! is looking for participants in this pilot program to help test the service. Participants get free parking within steps of the station every time they use the service. The pilot program runs until June 2005.

For more details and to sign up for the program, visit www.ridenow.org.



GOOD TIMES

American Irish

Restless Minds Productions
Exit Theatre on Taylor
277 Taylor Street, San Francisco, 415/995-1977
www.restlessmindsproductions.org
BART: Powell Street

March 4-26: The play tells the story of John Farrelly, an Irishman who has lived in the United States for five years, who briefly returns home to Dublin to tell his family that he is about to become a father. He now plans to settle in the US with his American girlfriend forever.

Cyclorama

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third Street
www.sfmoma.org
415/357-4000
BART: Powell or Montgomery

Through 2005: Marco Brambilla’s video installation features views from nine revolving rooftop restaurants in cities across North America. The videos are synchronized to erode any notion of distance or time zone, in effect merging the cities in a single panoramic skyline.



Candide

Lamplighters Music Theatre
Herbst Theatre, War Memorial Opera House
401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
www.sfwmpac.org or 415/392-4400
BART: Civic Center
Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m.

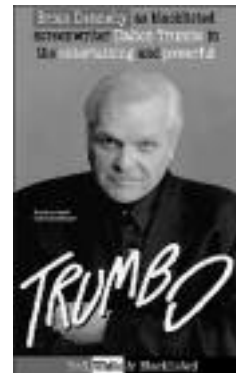
Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts
1701 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
www.dlrca.org or 925/943-7469
BART: Walnut Creek

Tuesday, March 29, 8 p.m. Leonard Bernstein teamed up with Voltaire – albeit a couple of centuries apart – to turn the 1759 comic masterpiece about seeking the meaning of life into a brilliant and beloved operetta.

Trumbo: Red, White & Blacklisted

Post Street Theater
450 Post St., San Francisco
www.ticketmaster.com or 415/771-6900
BART: Powell Street

March 8-20: Tony Award-winning actor Brian Dennehy stars as legendary screenwriter and novelist Dalton Trumbo, one of the “Hollywood 10” who refused to answer the House Un-American Activities Committee’s questions about their political affiliations in the 1950s. The play is written by Trumbo’s son, Christopher, from his father’s letters.



The Voyage Inheritance

American Conservatory Theater
Geary Theater, 415 Geary St., San Francisco
www.act-sfbay.org or 415/749-2228
BART: Montgomery Street

March 18-April 17: David Mamet’s adaptation of Harvey Granville-Barker’s 19th-century play explores conflicts between family, money and loyalty. The study of modern morality bears surprising relevance to current headlines of corporate scandal and white-collar crime.



BART Employees Donate to Tsunami Relief

On Monday, February 14, BART employees donated a check for \$64,472.27 to the American Red Cross to assist in their tsunami relief efforts. Over 100 BART employees donated personal vacation time and holidays during the 24-day campaign. The cash equivalent of those donated hours was used to make the contribution to the Red Cross.

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grimescartoons.com

